



**Butler County
Department
of Environmental
Services**

Water • Wastewater •
Solid Waste • Recycling &
Litter Prevention

Transmitted via fax and original followed by US Mail

Commissioners:

Courtney E. Combs
Charles R. Furmon
Michael A. Fox

Ms. Rebecca Kane
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
Mail Code 2222A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC, 20460

RE: Comments on ECHO Reports

Dear Ms. Kane:

Butler County Department of Environmental Services (BCDES) submitted on-line comments on January 3, 2003 regarding inaccuracies in the LeSourdsville Regional WRF Detailed Facility Report published on your website. Additionally, we submitted general comments regarding the report generation and need to be able to review the data prior to distribution on the Internet. To date, BCDES has not received notification that the inaccuracies noted in the LeSourdsville report were corrected or resolved. Today, we are submitting comments that are categorized into three areas: 1. Problems with LeSourdsville Regional WRF Report; 2. Problems with Upper Mill Creek Regional WRF Report; and 3. General Problems and Concerns with the ECHO System.

I. Problems with LeSourdsville Regional WRF Report

While evaluating at the results of a Facility Information Query the PCS National System Record, Detailed Facility Report was generated for Butler County Department of Environmental Services' (BCDES) LeSourdsville Regional Water Reclamation Facility-System ID = OH0049417. Below are the errors and omissions that we would like to see expeditiously corrected.

1. Facility Characteristics, Permit Expiration Date

The LeSourdsville Regional WRF's NPDES Permit expired in March 2002. BCDES made a timely application for a permit renewal; however, the Ohio EPA failed to issue a renewal permit in a timely manner. BCDES believes that there should be some notation that the permit renewal was submitted in a timely manner and the expired permit is not the fault of BCDES. This information needs to be updated and included both on the main website page, as well as the detailed data page which includes Permit Tracking as a heading.

2. Inspection and Enforcement Summary Data

The date of last inspection is listed as July 17, 2000 however, the most recent Compliance Evaluation Inspection took place on May 14, 2002. Additionally, the inspection in 2000

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did not occur in July as noted on the report. In 2000, Mr. Ned Sarle of Ohio EPA performed a Compliance Inspection on December 19, 2000.

3. Compliance Summary Data

The report indicates that BCDES' LeSourdsville WRF was in Non-Compliance 6 out of the past 8 quarters. BCDES disagrees with this. Based on our operating report and those provided to Ohio EPA, violations at the LeSourdsville Regional WRF for the past two years are as follows:

Mth.	Parameter	Freq.	Permit Lt.	Reported Value
9/02	D.O.	daily	5.5 mg/l	5.3 mg/l
5/02	D.O.	daily	5.5 mg/l	3.6 mg/l
5/02	D.O.	daily	5.5 mg/l	4.8 mg/l
1/01	Lead	mtlhy	59 ug/l	77 ug/l
8/00	D.O.	daily	5.5 mg/l	5.0 mg/l

a. Starting with the most recent quarter for which data is listed (Apr – June 2002), the website indicates that we exceeded D.O. by 35%, which is correct. However, your site incorrectly states that the LeSourdsville plant exceeded TSS by 33%, Nitrogen Ammonia by 1% and Fecal Coliform by 155%. BCDES' LeSourdsville facility did not violate any of these three parameters during this time period.

b. During the 3-month period, we had one day with a 32 mg/l TSS. However, both the weekly and the 30-day averages were well within permit limits. It appears that the website is picking out the highest single result of the period and performing calculations to determine by how much the permit limits were exceeded. This is inaccurate, because BCDES does not have a daily TSS limit. No violation of TSS occurred during this time period. The same is true of Nitrogen Ammonia (we had a 5.29 mg/l daily result in May, but the permit limit is a 7 day limit of 5.25 mg/l, and a monthly average of 3.5 mg/l), and fecal coliform (we had a daily fecal of 5100 mg/l but were well within the monthly and weekly limits). A look at the detailed data provided in the website supports this conclusion. For example, each day for which fecal coliform is greater than 2000 cfu/g, it indicates that a violation has occurred. We do not have a daily limit for fecal coliform. This appears to have occurred during each quarter for which data is reported.

c. BCDES contends that we were in Non-Compliance for only 3 of the 8 most recent quarters, and not 6 as reported on the web site.

II. Problems with Upper Mill Creek Regional WRF Report

1. Inspection and Enforcement Summary Data

The date of last inspection is listed as May 24, 1995 however the most recent Compliance Evaluation Inspection took place on May 14, 2002.

2. Compliance Summary Data

The site indicates that BCDES' Upper Mill Creek WRF was in Non-Compliance 8 out of the past 8 quarters. BCDES disagrees with this. Based on our operating report and those provided to Ohio EPA, violations at the Upper Mill Creek Regional WRF for the past two years are as follows:

Mth.	Parameter	Freq.	Permit Lt.	Reported Value
8/02	TSS	wkly	18 mg/L	27 mg/L
4/02	TSS	wkly	18 mg/L	38.6 mg/L
4/02	TSS	wkly	1090 kg/d	1831 kg/d
3/02	TSS	wkly	681 kg/d	1170 kd/d
3/02	TSS	wkly	18 mg/L	27 mg/L
1/2002	O&G	daily	10 mg/L	17 mg/L
7/01	TSS	wkly	681 kg/d	1092 kg/d
6/01	NH3	wkly	3.0 mg/L	3.12 mg/L
4/01	Cd	daily	16 ug/L	22 ug/L
4/01	Cd	methly	3 ug/L	11 ug/L
4/01	Cd	daily	0.61 mg/kg	0.654 mg/kg
4/01	Cd	methly	0.11 mg/kg	0.284 mg/kg
2/01	TSS	wkly	18 mg/L	35 mg/L
2/01	TSS	wkly	681 kg/d	1819 kg/d
2/01	TSS	methly	454 kg/d	550 kg/d
1/01	pH	daily	9.0 SU	9.3 SU

The report states that the Upper Mill Creek facility was in non-compliance 8 out of the last 8 quarters. BCDES disagrees with this categorization. The database averages and miscalculates data. Similar to errors noted above in the I.3.b.LeSourdsville Compliance Summary, the Upper Mill Creek report is inaccurate because it lists violations for parameters that did not exceed permit limits. In the last quarter noted on the report, the report states that BCDES violated TSS by 967%, ammonia by 55%, fecal coliform by 210% and CBOD5 by 107%. Yet, the only violation had during the last quarter was TSS with no violations for ammonia, fecal coliform or CBOD5. The USEPA compliance summary database has considerable flaws and they must be worked out prior to going on-line and with larger implementation. The information as reported is incorrect and misleading and should be corrected.

III. General Problems and Concerns with the ECHO System

1. In general, as a discharger BCDES feels it necessary to always be able to comment and report errors on this and future websites that are sponsored by USEPA and that display our operational records on the Internet. Accurate information was provided to Ohio EPA and it should be provided accurately to the public. Dischargers should be given the

Ms. Kane
January 21, 2003

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ability to review and comment on any future reports prior to them being available to the public. This will help to ensure accuracy, proper transfer, sharing and display of public information - correct public information.

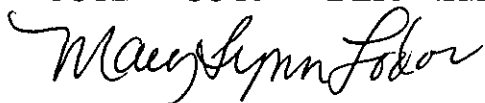
2. As noted on your website, it is mentioned that corrections could be made within 2-3 days. We originally submitted our comments on the LeSourdsville report on January 3, 2003, yet have those errors have not been corrected. The types of errors we found are most disturbing to us and are the ones that really effect public perception. Inaccurate information leads to a misinformed public and costs the regulated community unnecessary damage.

3. Lastly, two general comments on the error notification page, this should be re-designed to allow the entire screen of a responders comments to print rather than just the first half of my first paragraph. While USEPA is receiving this electronically (and hopefully can view all my comments), this print out would have been my only record of my comments. Additionally, if you truly want complete comments, additional spaces for responses are required. The current box only allows 2000 characters while my comments exceed 5000 characters with spaces.

Thank you and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

BUTLER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



MaryLynn Lodor
Regulatory Compliance Coordinator

CC: James A. Parrott, Director
Reg Team